Things Fall Apart

Book report by Sari Kroschel

Things Fall Apart is about a man, Okonkwo, his family, and his village, where yes, things do fall apart. He was born to a lazy, father who makes his living getting drunk, and playing music for people. He didn’t own any fields or yam barns. So when he died, his son, Okonkwo, didn’t want to associate with him. Okonkwo worked had and long until he married his first wife, his second wife, and his third wife. The story starts when a girl is kidnapped from the village, Umuofia. In return, the other village gives them a young girl, and a boy who is chosen to live with Okonkwo. His name was Ikemefuna. Yes, I said was, not is, because around three years later, Okonkwo is chosen to kill Ikemefuna. This took a great toll on Nwoye, Okonkwo’s oldest son. This is where things start to fall apart. At the funeral of a warrior, people were shooting guns off to give a send-away the spirit of the man. That is when Okonkwo’s gun explodes, killing a fellow clansman. He was sentenced to 7 years of living in his mother’s land. This wipes out his plans to become one of the heads in the clan. It is there where a white man comes and tries to convert the people to Christianity. He fails miserably. The tribe gets tired of him and gives him a plot of land to build his church on. Some people convert. Then, a shocking thing happens. Nwoye defies his father and joins the church, assuming the name, Isaac. Little scuttles happen between the clan and the church. The 7 years are up and Okonkwo and company return to Umofia. Umofia is very different, as a church was also set up. Okonkwo says that the once fierce villagers of Umofia have turned soft like woman (page 168). When they burn the church down, and soldiers come into the village, the soldiers request a meeting with some of the men. Okonkwo included. The Umofiabians are taken hostage, and made to pay a huge fine. After that, the village has a huge meeting where a spy from the church comes and Okonkwo kills. He is then so sad that his beloved town of once fierce people, will not go to war against the church, Okonkwo hangs himself.

Word count:386

If you like very slow moving books where little happens, that **Things Fall Apart** is the book for you. If you are ever forced to read a book, than this would be the best choice because the hardest part is bearing though reading the book itself. As you can see, I didn’t like the book one tiny bit at all. It was incredibly slow moving and when the climax finally arrived, I wanted to take a long nap! Honestly, the back cover of the book made it sound extremely better that it really was. I kept thinking to myself that it would get better; that never happened. The best part was the end, because then I was finally done with the book. Maybe I’m being a little too critical. The book wasn’t that bad, I just didn’t care for it at all. It did show a lot of Nigerian culture, before and after the white people came. I did get a different feeling from the language used, it flowed very well. What I didn’t get was why Okonkwo beat his wives and children so many times throughout the book, I mean he almost shot his second wife! If I was rewriting the book, I would have been a little more in detail, to give more to the lacking plot. Also, what I didn’t like was that the author was too graphic about the songs and relationships between the people. I also didn’t get the whole connection between the gods and the real people. If I had known that this classic book was so tedious, then I probably would have read a different Africa book.

Word count:274